



## **UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Meeting Summary September 19, 2011**

#### **Meeting called to order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Juan Cardenas and introductions were made.

#### **Update from Upcounty Regional Services Center Staff**

Catherine Matthews, Director, shared the following highlights:

- Dept. of Health & Human Services will host a community forum on the FY2013 operating budget on October 19, 6pm-8pm at the Children's Resource Center in Rockville.
- Community Service Week begins October 16 and informational sessions are scheduled around the county for interested families and groups. One will be at the Germantown Library on Sunday, October 2 from 3 to 4pm.

#### **Update from the County Council** – No report

#### **Discussion: "Youth Curfew Bill"**

Montgomery County Police Chief Tom Manger provided background on the County Executive's proposed legislation and explained that the municipalities of Gaithersburg and Rockville are monitoring our discussions and actions on the issue as is Frederick County.

Council member Craig Rice's points for supporting the bill:

- We have to address kids being victimized, especially from youth on youth crime;
- The bill needs a sunset date so we can revisit the need and effect;
- He found that, when questioned, most inmates at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF) supported the bill;
- We need to determine and articulate for the community what we want to accomplish with the bill; and
- "It needs some small tweaks, but it's a good bill"

Council member Phil Andrews articulated reasons for his opposition to the bill:

- He still thinks that loitering is the real issue which can be addressed in a more targeted manner;
- He said that crime stats are actually down during the curfew hours;
- The bill is not based on any real trends;
- There isn't a rush and we should take more time to examine this thoroughly;
- A targeted approach is better (i.e. responding to actual behavior and not just the presence of youths) and we should detail more officers, use more surveillance cameras; and
- The bill has too many exceptions which causes more confusion.

Mr. Andrews encouraged the Board to not support the bill but explore other possible solutions.

Recreation Department Director Gabe Alborno shared comments he's heard from youths:

- Many oppose the bill until they understand how it would work;
- "Guilty until proven innocent," "under house arrest;"
- Youths say they want more positive places and activities, especially on weekend evenings; and
- Overall, he's getting a mixed bag of opinions.

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Several UCAB members voiced support for a two-year sunset period for the bill. Other comments from Board members who have discussed the bill with community residents reflected concern about:

- Indigent youth or parents not able to pay the fine;
- How the situation would be recorded in the youth's court file;
- How an adopted bill would impact adjacent municipalities;
- The ability to link this offense to underage drinking; and
- How a loitering law might work.

Comments from visitors:

- Need to clarify how HOAs' private security companies would interact with police on the issue;
- A better solution would be to increase the number of officers on the street;
- Opposes the bill because it doesn't sound enforceable --- we're blowing the problem out of proportion;
- Suggests that the Council can tell the County Executive "no" to the bill but should offer another solution;
- How will detained youths get home?

UCAB's Quality of Life Committee will explore this issue further at their meeting on Monday, September 26, 7pm.

#### **Report from the Chairperson**

Chairperson Juan Cardenas reported that he will attend a joint meeting of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the five regional Citizens Advisory Boards to discuss best practices and other issues.

#### **Committee and Liaison Reports**

*Land Use and Preservation Committee* – No report.

*Quality of Life Committee* – No report.

*Airpark Liaison Committee* – No report.

*Upcounty Regional Recreation Advisory Board Liaison* - No report.

*Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group* (DFIG) – No report.

*Speed Cameras Advisory Committee*– No report.

*Shady Grove Implementation Advisory Committee* (SGIAG) – No report.

*Permitting Services Advisory Committee* –No report

*Northern Region Recreation Advisory Board* – No report

*Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Group* –No report

#### **Community Comments** - None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

*Members present:* Andres Aviles, Juan Cardenas, Joel Cockrell, Cherian Eapen, Scott Graham, Matthew Leakan, Robert Nelson, Doug Noble, Oneil Ormsby, Gail Robinson, Rebecca Walker.

*Other Guests:* Rose Taylor (Councilmember Rice's Office), Dale Tibbitts (Councilmember Elrich's Office), Rev. Mansfield "Kasey" Kaseman, Lloyd Hall, Dennis Barnes, Betty Forrest, Bruce Goldensohn, 5D Cmdr, Luther Reynolds, Vernon Ricks, Janice Freeman, Ms. Freeman.

*Staff present:* Catherine Matthews